Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Are the Government aware of the fact that in South Malabar, many of the estate owners with a view to evade implementation of payment of minimum wages have declared a lock-out stating that they are incurring losses and that after four or six months have re-opened the estates? Will the Government take steps to see that the manoeuvres of the managements do not succeed and that workers are paid minimum wages by them?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate specific question.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : May I know whether the Government have adopted a uniform policy in fixing minimum wages and whether the Government is aware that the minimum wage paid in Malabar is Rs. 1–11–0 while in Tamilnad it is Re. 1–7–0?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Here, the interim award relating to minimum wages has been fixed by the Special Tribunal that has been enquiring into the matter. It has fixed wages according to the grades of the workers, Re. 1–7–0 per grade-1 worker, Re. 1–1–0 per grade-2 worker and As. 11 per child. This award would only apply to estates whose cases have been referred to the Tribunal.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN : May I know what is the machinery the Government have to see that minimum wages are implemented by estate owners in Tamilnad as well as in Malabar?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Wherever it is brought to the notice of the Government, if there is a failure, the Government prosecute the managements. If there are claims against the managements the Government ask the workers to file them so that the Government may take necessary action.

9-40 a. m. Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Are the Government aware that the owners do not come forward to implement granting of minimum wages to the workers and are Government aware that about 100 workers have been arrested in various plantation estates of South Malabar simply for the purpose of the owners avoiding implementation of the minimum wages?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry I have no information with me. The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Electrification of villages in North Malabar

* 3442 Q.—Sri C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the date on which electricity will be supplied to the villages of Quilandy and Badagara (North Malabar), under the new scheme that has been recently sanctioned?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Supply of electricity to Badagara village was effected on 15th October 1955. Supply to Quilandy will, it is expected, be possible in the last week of March 1956.